

Year 5/6

Reading

Comprehension

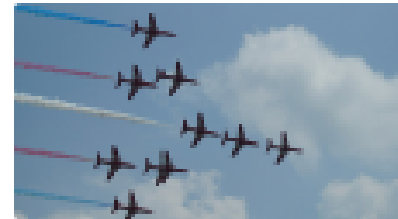
**Armed Forces Day**

# Armed Forces Day

This year, Armed Forces Day in the UK is on Saturday 25th June. People celebrate the men and women who serve and have served in the armed forces.

## What Is Armed Forces Day?

Armed Forces Day is a chance to show support for the men and women who serve the country in the armed forces. Armed Forces Day was first celebrated in 2006.



## When Does Armed Forces Day Take Place?

Each year, Armed Forces Day takes place on the last Saturday of June. The celebrations for Armed Forces Day begin on the Monday before this. The celebrations begin with the Armed Forces Day flag being raised on famous buildings around the country. The date was chosen as it is close to the date when the first Victoria Cross was awarded in 1857. This is a special award given to members of the armed forces for bravery.

## Where Does Armed Forces Day Take Place?

Each year, the Armed Forces Day celebrations take place in one town in the UK. It is called the National Event. Some smaller events also take place in other parts of the country.

## How Is Armed Forces Day Celebrated?

There are many ways for people, communities and organisations across the country to show their support and get involved, such as:

- The presentation of medals to ex-service people
- Special parades
- Activities performed on land, sea and air
- Fly-overs
- Royal Marine Commando Display Team
- Military displays
- Firework displays



## Who Are the Armed Forces?

The UK Armed Forces work around the world, promoting peace and supporting people in need.



### Royal Army

The British Army is the land-based part of the United Kingdom Armed Forces.



### Royal Navy

The Royal Navy is the sea-based part of the United Kingdom Armed Forces.



### Royal Marines

The Royal Marines are a specially trained force who deal with a wide range of threats.



### Royal Air Force

The Royal Air Force is the air-based part of the United Kingdom Armed Forces.



### Reservists

Reservists give up their spare time to serve in the Reserve Forces, to ensure that should their country require them, they would be ready to serve.



# Armed Forces Day Questions

1. Which people are celebrated on Armed Forces Day?

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2. When was Armed Forces Day first celebrated?

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3. What is the name of the main event on Armed Forces Day?

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4. Name three activities which show support for armed forces servicemen and women.

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5. What do the armed forces do?

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6. Why are the reservists different to the rest of the armed forces?

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# Armed Forces Day Answers

1. Which people are celebrated on Armed Forces Day?  
**The men and women who serve the country in the armed forces.**
2. When was Armed Forces Day first celebrated?  
**2006**
3. What is the name of the main event on Armed Forces Day?  
**The National Event.**
4. Name three activities which show support for armed forces servicemen and women.  
**Any three answers from:**
  - **The presentation of medals to ex-service people**
  - **Special parades**
  - **Activities performed on land, sea and air**
  - **Fly-overs**
  - **Royal Marine Commando**
  - **Display Team**
  - **Military displays**
  - **Firework displays**
5. What do the armed forces do?  
**The UK Armed Forces work around the world, promoting peace and supporting people in need.**
6. Why are the reservists different to the rest of the armed forces?  
**Reservists give up their spare time to serve in the reserve forces.**

**Back to Earth with  
a BUMP!**





## Comprehension Questions

Answer questions in full sentences.

1. How long had Peake been living on the ISS?

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2. Write down **one** job that Tim had to do on the mission.

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3. Why were the astronauts carried out of the capsule?

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4. What did Peake notice once he'd left the capsule?

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5. What was hard about being on the ISS for so long?

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6. Who wrote the article?

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7. Give a reason why space travel is important.

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# Back To Earth With A Bump! Answers

1. How long had Peake been living on the ISS?  
**Tim Peake had been living on the ISS for six months.**
2. Write down **one** job that Tim had to do on the mission.  
**Any one of; he conducted experiments, tested out new technology and did necessary repairs on the ISS.**
3. Why were the astronauts carried out of the capsule?  
**They were carried as their leg muscles were too weak to walk.**
4. What did Peake notice once he'd left the capsule?  
**He noticed the smells of Earth and the fresh air.**
5. What was hard about being on the ISS for so long?  
**Tim said that being away from his family and friends for such a long time wasn't easy.**
6. Who wrote the article?  
**The article was written by Amanda Kelper.**
7. Give a reason why space travel is important.  
**Own answer, which may include to make new discoveries, to find out if there's life in other parts of the Solar System, to conduct important experiments in space, etc.**

# Battle of the Somme

# Battle of the Somme

The Battle of the Somme took place during the First World War in France by the River Somme. It was between the German army and the French army. The British Army was ordered to help the French.

It began on 1st July 1916 and ended on 18th November 1916.

## Trenches

During WWI, huge trenches were dug into the ground wherever there was a battle. The soldiers would live in the trenches and, when ordered to, had to climb up out of the trenches and run towards the enemy troops.

This was called 'going over the top'. Trenches were muddy, narrow and damp.

## The British Plan

The British Army were told to fire machine guns at the German lines and then walk over to them and fight them face to face.

On Day 1 the British Army fired 1 738 000 shells at the German trenches. Then they started walking over to them.

As the British soldiers walked towards them, the Germans started firing their machine guns. 20 000 men were either killed or seriously wounded!

Many people in Britain were angry at the huge loss of so many young men and called it 'The Lost Generation'.

Back in Britain, people began to build simple war shrines in honour of the fallen soldiers.

These were simple, wooden, handmade tablets with the names of the men carved into them.



# Battle of the Somme

## Did you know?

The British Army had soldiers from other countries fighting with them. The men came from Ireland, Newfoundland, South Africa and India.

## The End of the War

Winter was closing in. The terrible weather meant men were trying to fight in muddy, boggy fields. Fighting was suspended. The plan was to carry on fighting in February, but the Germans decided to retreat. The battle was officially over on 18th November 1916. The British Army had failed to defeat the German army.

## Battle of the Somme Facts

- It had been a terrible battle, with 420 000 casualties for the British Army.
- The French lost 200 000 men.
- The Germans lost 500 000 men.
- Many men from Britain had been grouped together in battalions from the same town. The groups were called British Pals.



# Battle of the Somme

1. What date did the battle begin?

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2. In what country was the Battle of the Somme?

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3. What do you think it would have been like in the trenches?

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4. Name two other countries where soldiers from the British Army came from.

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5. How many British soldiers were killed or wounded on the first day of battle?

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6. Why did people build war shrines?

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7. What were they made from?

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8. Why did it matter if the fields were muddy and boggy?

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# Battle of the Somme

9. Why was it a terrible battle?

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10. What do you think about the Battle of the Somme? Was it a successful battle?

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# Battle of the Somme Answers

## Answers

1 What date did the battle begin?

**1st July 1916**

2 In what country was the Battle of the Somme?

**France**

3 What do you think it would have been like in the trenches?

**Dirty, muddy, horrible etc**

4 Name 2 other countries where soldiers for the British Army came from?

**Any of the following: Ireland, Newfoundland, South Africa, India.**

5 How many British soldiers were killed or wounded on the first day of the battle?

**20,000**

6 Why did people build war shrines?

**To remember the soldiers who had died.**

7 What were they made from?

**Wood**

8 Why did it matter if the fields were muddy and boggy?

**It would have been very difficult to fight in muddy fields.**

9 Why was it a terrible battle?

**Because so many men died or were wounded.**

10 What do you think about the Battle of the Somme? Was it a successful battle?

**Own answer, must be justified.**



# **Rainforest Deforestation**

All about...

# Rainforest Deforestation

Rainforests are a very important part of our planet, giving us oxygen, absorbing carbon dioxide and giving a home to 50% of the animal and plant species of the planet. Not to mention the medicines and cures that are made from the plants that grow there.

## Deforestation

Deforestation is the name given to the destruction of the rainforests and this is being done by burning them down, chopping down the trees or flooding the areas. This is happening so fast that an area the size of twenty football pitches is being destroyed every minute! If this carries on at this speed, it will take less than a hundred years to destroy all the rainforests on Earth.



### Fact File in Numbers

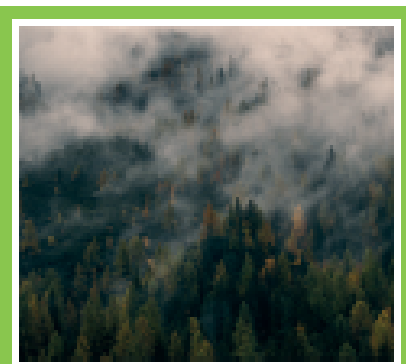
- 20% of the world's oxygen is produced in the Amazon forest.
- 28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years due to deforestation.
- 50% of the tropical rainforests that we had have already gone.

## Why are they being destroyed?

The biggest reason for clearing the rainforests is to make space for producing food, including cattle to be farmed for cheap beef and also growing large crops, such as soya beans and palm oil. In addition, other causes of deforestation, which are also related to making money include: chopping down and using the wood from the forest; building roads for mining metals, gold or diamonds; flooding areas to make dams to generate electricity and also digging for oil.

## How can they be saved?

You could help by raising money for a deforestation charity. Also, you could think about the reasons that the forests are being destroyed and how you could help. For example, the cheap beef farmed in the areas that used to be rainforest land is often used in fast food chains. Could you avoid eating fast food from these outlets? You could also check on your supermarket food labels - was it farmed in an area where deforestation is taking place? You could also use rainforest friendly wood so you know it is not a product of deforestation. Finally remember, paper comes from trees so any paper saving you can do, as well as recycling, will help the environment.



# Questions about Rainforest Deforestation

1. Name a reason not to destroy rainforests given in the first paragraph.

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2. Name **one** of the three ways given that a rainforest can be destroyed.

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3. What does 'deforestation' mean?

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4. In the fact file, what does the word 'extinct' mean?

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5. Why does saving paper help the rainforests?

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6. Why has the author used an exclamation mark in paragraph two?

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7. What **fraction** of the earth's plant and animal species live in the rainforests?

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8. What is the main reason that rainforests are being destroyed?

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9. Which rainforest produces 20% of the world's oxygen?

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10. What is your opinion about deforestation? What could you do to try and help stop it?

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## Answers

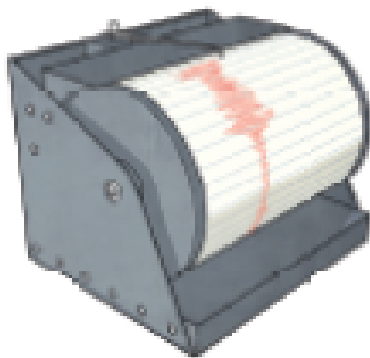
1. Name a reason not to destroy rainforests given in the first paragraph.  
**Any from: medicines, cure for cancer, 50% of animal and plant species live there, gives out oxygen, absorbs carbon dioxide.**
2. Name one of the three ways given that a rainforest can be destroyed.  
**Any from: burning, chopping down, flooding.**
3. What does 'deforestation' mean?  
**Clearing a forest area/ chopping, burning down trees/ getting rid of forests.**
4. In the fact file, what does the word 'extinct' mean?  
**None of that animal/species existing ever again/ none left.**
5. Why does saving paper help the rainforests?  
**Paper is made from wood (making it also causes more carbon footprint).**
6. Why has the author used an exclamation mark in paragraph two?  
**The rate of destruction is surprising (discuss this).**
7. What fraction of the earth's plant and animal species live in the rainforests?  
**½ (the text says 50%).**
8. What is the main reason that rainforests are being destroyed?  
**Food: Cheap beef, or agricultural crops including soya or palm oil.**
9. Which rainforest produces 20% of the world's oxygen?  
**The Amazon Rainforest.**
10. What is your opinion about deforestation? How could you help to stop it?  
**Open ended for discussion. Answers could discuss raising money for charities, making different choices about food and conserving paper.**

# Earthquakes

# Earthquakes

## The Earth's Crust

The Earth's crust and the top of the mantle have about twenty tectonic plates, which are like jigsaw pieces covering the Earth. These plates are always moving and bumping into each other. The edges of the plates are called 'plate boundaries', which are made up of faults. These faults are where most of the world's earthquakes occur. As the plates move, the edges get stuck because they are not smooth, but the rest of the plate keeps moving. When the force is too much, it slips and bumps and that causes an earthquake. A bit like when you pull something which gets caught, you pull it some more until it comes free with a big force.



## Seismograph

A seismograph (say: size-mo-graf) is a special piece of equipment that records earthquakes. Seismometers are securely fastened to the Earth, so when the ground starts to shake, the instrument's case moves too. What doesn't move is a weight that hangs on a string inside the case. When there is an earthquake, the case shakes with the ground but the weight does not, and it draws a line to show how much the ground shook. Scientists use seismograms (graphs produced by the seismograph) to measure how big each earthquake is.

## Interesting Fact

In 2009, in a place called L'Aquila in Italy, there was an earthquake that killed 309 people. In relation to the earthquake, a case went to court and it was decided that it was the fault of six Italian scientists who should have known it was coming and warned people. They were sent to prison for manslaughter (killing someone without planning or being hateful) but argued their case and won, so they did not have to go to prison after all.

## You could try to find out:

- 1 How earthquakes are measured.
- 2 How easy they are to predict.
- 3 About other cases where prison sentences have been handed out in unusual circumstances.
- 4 How you go about arguing a decision made by a court.

# Questions About Earthquakes

1. How many tectonic plates are there?

There are...

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2. What are plate boundaries?

Plate boundaries are...

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3. What does it mean when we say 'predicting earthquakes'?

Predicting earthquakes means...

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4. Describe what causes earthquakes.

Earthquakes are caused by...

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5. What is a seismograph?

A seismograph is...

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## Answers

**1. How many tectonic plates are there?**

There are twenty tectonic plates.

**2. What are plate boundaries?**

Plate boundaries are the edges of the Earth's tectonic plates.

**3. What does it mean when we say 'predicting earthquakes'?**

Any answer that suggests: Predicting earthquakes means using scientific measures to make a good guess when something might happen.

**4. Describe what causes earthquakes.**

Any answer that suggests: Earthquakes are caused by the plates moving, rubbing and bumping together.

**5. What is a seismograph?**

Any answer that suggests: A seismograph is a special piece of equipment that records earthquakes by drawing them.